

## CORRESPONDENCE.

786 LAFAYETTE AVE.,  
BROOKLYN, N. Y., MAY 2, 1889.

Some of the Centennial decorations came to grief and had to be taken down, and the work—a colossal task—done all over again. The two days and two nights steady down-pour—it certainly never rained harder since the deluge—destroyed many hundreds of dollars worth of bunting. The blue ran into the white, and the red splashed all over the blue, obscuring the stars and giving the scene a sort of "stayed out all night," "paint the town red" expression which was not very creditable to a great city expecting a visit from the "Father of the Country," to say nothing of all his neighbors, admirers, and descendants. The strangers who came before the celebration to see the sights and do their shopping, had had rare opportunities to wade and slosh about. Every department of trade has been paralyzed by the expected jubilee, and the emptying of the clouds, with the exception of the trade in goloshes, waterproofs and leggings. One firm on Broadway is reported to have sold last Saturday five hundred pairs of rubbers, and the demand for waterproofs has been equally great. This may be a slight exaggeration, but it is true that the stranger within our gates did not come prepared to find that Washington, in order to make the occasion truly realistic, had sent the Potomac on ahead of him. There were a great many wicked people in New York last Sunday, but they excused themselves from working on the same principle that the housewife excuses herself from Sunday morning service when the minister is visiting her. "Company must have something to eat, and things must look decent."

New York has worn her best clothes many a time, and received the congratulations and compliments of the world for her taste and her utter disregard for expense. But she has broken her own splendid record this time, for the mind of a man never conceived such a scene of splendor as this of the Centennial celebration. The only trouble was that so many thousands had to be crowded out, and so many that came hundreds of miles to witness the great pageant might just as well have stayed at home for all they could see of the real celebration. There is a general expression of indignation that the time granted for excursion tickets was not lengthened so that these disappointed ones could at least feel able to remain a few days longer. This was a blunder, and about the only one that has been made.

The costumes of some of the ladies at the naval parade on Monday were most charming, and principally on account of their suitability to the occasion. There were many pongs, and black silks, but more Henriettas, all made with somewhat plain skirts, and invariably short—or "Swing Cleas"—as they are called. The long, full graceful cloaks now so fashionable, were particularly noticeable. In this connection, let me say that the Henrietta Silk Warp goods are the greatest favorite this year for spring and summer wear, and to those who have asked me about them, I give them this warning: be careful of imitations, for these fraudulent fabrics are as thick as huckleberries in August. Many of my friends have visited reputable stores and enquired for Priestley Silk Warp Henriettas and have been given a poor grade of, woollen goods, which have not paid for making up. There is no need of being imposed upon in this matter. The purchaser has only to look for herself. The Priestley Silk Warp Henriettas are rolled upon a varnished board, and the name of B. Priestley & Co. is stamped in gilt letters every five yards on the under side of the selvage. These goods are manufactured in Bradford, England, and guaranteed never to crack, fray, or change color. This guarantee holds every time, as I know from positive experience. There is no material that drapes so exquisitely, and none ever manufactured that wears so long, without growing shabby.

Among the novelties prepared for the reception of visitors during the Centennial celebration, was the addition of a New England dining room to one of our hotels. The head cook is a "Down East" woman, and her assistants all hail from the same quarter. Her beans baked in the Boston pots are dispensed with the accompanying brown bread and Indian pudding. Here are "biled vittles," and chicken pies, and doughnuts, and election cake, and every possible Plymouth Rock delicacy. The following rule for taking beans was furnished me by this estimable lady in charge of the New England dining room:

Select small beans, and if more than a year old they must be soaked over night. In the morning put them over the fire in cold water and parboil them slightly. This is to remove the rank bean taste. When the skin wrinkles take them off, and strain through a colander, pouring cold water over them, letting it run

through. This prevents them coming to mush while they are baking. Place a slice of fat, salt pork in the bottom of the pot, and on this a small onion. Then add the beans. Be careful of salt as sometimes the pork contains a sufficient quantity. Wash and score the rind of a pound of salt pork, and place on the top of the beans. Add a quarter of a cup of molasses, or a heaping great spoonful of sugar, and fill up with water. Bake several hours, the longer the better.

ELEANOR KIRK.

Getting Rich by Small Inventions.

The New Jersey man who hit upon the idea of attaching a rubber erasing tip to the end of lead pencils is worth \$20,000.

The miner who invented a metal rivet or eyelet at each end of the mouth of coat and trousers' pockets, to resist the strain caused by the carriage of pieces of ore and heavy tools, has made more money from his letters patent than he would have made had he struck a good vein of gold-bearing quartz.

Everyone has seen the metal plates that are used to protect the heels and soles of rough shoes, but everyone doesn't know that within ten years the man who hit upon the idea has made \$250,000.

As large a sum as was ever obtained for any invention was enjoyed by the Yankee who invented the inverted glass bell to hang over glass jets to protect ceilings from being blackened by smoke.

The inventor of the roller skate has made \$1,000,000, notwithstanding the fact that his patent had nearly expired before the value of it was ascertained in the craze for roller skating that spread over the country a few years ago.

The gimlet pointed screw has produced more wealth than most silver mines, and the Connecticut man who first thought of putting copper tips on the toes of children's shoes is as well off as if he had inherited \$1,000,000, for that's the amount his idea has realized for him in cold, clammy coin.

The common needle threader, which everyone has seen for sale, and which every woman owns, was a boom to needle users. The man who invented it has an income of \$10,000 a year from his invention.

A minister in England made \$50,000 by inventing an old toy that danced by winding it with a string. The man who invented the return ball, an ordinary wooden ball with a rubber string attached to pull it back, made \$1,000,000 from it.

The person who invented the most recent popular toy, "Pigs in Clover," will be rich before the leaves turn this autumn. He was poor last November.

THE STUFF OF WHICH GENTLEMEN ARE MADE.—There is some goodness in human nature after all, and the American was shown a sample of it yesterday afternoon on Main street. The newboys on the streets are hardly noted for their goodness and obliging dispositions, but one of them yesterday put some of the good people to blush. A little girl was going along with a large package of sugar under her arm. At the corner of Main and Eagle streets she dropped the package, and the contents were scattered on the ground. The passers by laughed. Some said: "Poor girl, it's too bad," but not one offered to assist her, until a newboy came along and saw the wreck. He promptly stopped, and kneeling down, he took a couple of evening papers that he had paid for, and wrapping the sugar up neatly and tying the bundle, gave it to the little girl and started off.—Buffalo Courier.

It was not many years ago that the cottonwood tree was considered useless for the purposes of lumber. Today it is crowding white pine out of the market for certain purposes, and large fortunes are being made all along the Mississippi river out of this wood, which was once despised as much in this field as a garish always has been among fishermen. In New Orleans white pine is worth \$35 a thousand, while yellow cottonwood brings \$65. For the ceiling of grain barges it is invaluable, as grain cannot grow in it. Every cracker box in use in this city today is made of cottonwood, and it cannot be excelled for fruit barrels. I do not know why this is so, but it is a fact, nevertheless. Cottonwood will hold nails and can be used for building, and it is also capable of a fine polish after certain treatment, and it is much prized for interior decorations. There are now men rich because they own tracts covered with cottonwood, who five years ago would have traded an acre of it for a yellow dog.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

When We Were Boys.

Speaking of "mits," who has not indulged in that fascinating game at some stage of his youthful career? Every man has had in his time his favorite "shooter"—either an agate, an alley, or perchance, a cornelian—and he has had a bag of marbles. He has been able to make a good ring on soft dirt with the sharp edge of his best heel, and he has often scooped holes in the ground for "holey-boley." He has practiced lagging at the ring for his shot, and he never forgot the order of that shot. If he were a smart boy, he put the kibosh on his better playmates by calling: "Fen picks for everything all around the game!" Often he has recklessly played "chimes" for keeps, and even now he cannot pass a crowd of boys playing marbles without involuntarily pausing to see that the next boy did on his shot. Marbles was and still is a great game, especially when played "for keeps."

Chicago Herald.

The Verdict Unanimous.

W. D. Sult, Druggist, Bippus, Ind., testifies: "It is a renowned Electric Bitters as the very best remedy. Every bottle sold has given relief in every case. One man took six bottles, and was cured of Rheumatism of 10 years' standing."

Abraham Hare, Druggist, Belleville, Ohio, affirms: "The best selling medicine I have ever sold is Electric Bitters. Thousands of others have added their testimony, so that the verdict is unanimous that Electric Bitters do cure all diseases of the Liver, Kidneys or Blood. Only a half dollar a bottle at Geo. M. Wood's Drug Store."

## SOMETHING ABOUT THE MUSH-ROOM'S UNDERGROUND COUSIN.

A Member of the Fungi Family That Tickles the Palate of the Epicure—How They Grow and Are "Caught"—Attempts at Cultivation Unsuccessful.

Probably few of the thousands of people who have enjoyed these culinary dainties are aware of the manner in which they grow or the circumstances in which they are obtained. Others, again, who have perchance never encountered truffles or met with them in the bill of fare or upon the menu of the dinner table—for they are not sufficiently plentiful to be a popular article of diet—will have but a confused idea as to what denomination they belong, such confusion being heightened by reason of the term "catching" or "hunting" being used to denote the means by which they are obtained. It is, therefore, not unnecessary to explain that truffles are underground fungi, those which are the subject of commerce belonging to the genus "tuber," whilst others which bear the name are of related though different genera. In England they were formerly known as "truffles," both names being doubtless derived from the Latin term tuber. They are somewhat oblong or globose, and vary in weight from a couple of ounces to several pounds, according to the species, locality and the circumstances in which they are grown. They vary somewhat in color; some are white, but generally they are of a black or dark brown color, and of a rough exterior, the skin being thickly covered with wart-like protuberances. When cut through with a knife, they present a different appearance from that of any other fungus. Veins traverse the mass in all directions, giving a marbled character that is a distinctive feature of the truffle. When closely examined, minute scales will be noticed in the veins. These contain spores, which are covered with spines.

DOGS AS TRUFFLE HUNTERS.

Not much is known of the early development of the truffle, owing principally to its peculiarity of growing underground, where it is free from observation; but when found in the nature state, in which they are used for food, they are altogether free from attachment, either to the ground or to any other body. They are commonly, if not invariably, found in woods, the presence of oak or beech trees appearing to favor their growth. From this fact it has been inferred that they are of a parasitical nature, and that at some stage of their existence they derive their nutriment from the roots of trees. Light calcareous soils are those which most frequently produce truffles, and in England they are chiefly obtained from the hill districts and chalky grounds of Hants and Wilts. Those, however, which chiefly supply the English markets are brought from France or Algeria.

Truffles emit a fragrant odor both during their growth and after they are gathered. It is this characteristic which favors their acquisition, as, being buried out of sight, some other faculty has to be employed to discover their presence. For this purpose the keen sense of smell in the dog is taken advantage of, and dogs are systematically trained for the purpose of "truffle hunting." This service is sometimes performed by pigs on the Continent. The dogs are trained by the device of hiding a truffle and rewarding the dog each time he discovers its place of concealment. By degrees the dog soon learns to search in the woods, attracted by the perfume, and scratches at the spot under which he perceives the hidden fungus. He is then rewarded by a piece of bread, and the truffle is carefully exhumed. The "catching" or "hunting" of truffles is a regular means of employment for men and dogs in those districts in which the fungus exists in such quantities to render the work remunerative.

HOW TO PREPARE THEM.

The attempts at artificial reproduction or cultivation of the truffle have not been successful, as mycelium or spawn, from which other fungi (such as mushrooms) are readily produced, has not yet been obtained. Success has occasionally attended the sprinkling of suitable ground with water in which the fresh peel of truffles has been steeped. The color and flavor of truffles are most distinctive, and the delicacy of this flavor is highly esteemed by cooks, these fungi being generally employed for flavoring meats. The fresher truffles are used the better, as they lose their perfume by exposure to the air. Thus, English truffles, which reach the market fresh gathered are preferable to those obtained from abroad; and those, again, which are deeper in the ground are superior to those found near the surface, possibly owing to the same reason—viz.: that they have been better protected from access of air.

To cook truffles, they should first be well washed, if necessary scrubbed with a brush—in warm water—and then boiled (according to size) from two to three hours. They may be served, hidden in a napkin, as if they were chestnuts. They are eaten at the second course, dry, with cold butter. The game is eaten with them, and the crisp peel is not discarded. Some people boil truffles in champagne, under the impression that they acquire the flavor of the wine. This is a most extravagant and useless custom, as, in the first place, the toughness of the truffle is quite impervious, and secondly, the wine, directly it is heated to boiling point, loses all spirit and flavor.

If it is desired to put truffles into a salad, boil them separately, then peel and cut them up when the dish is ready, and then add all pour the gravy or sauce. They should also be cooked separately if intended for insertion into a bird's head or for combination with the stuffing for turkey. In the latter case they should be peeled and introduced with the stuffing.—London Queen.

An oblong oval the full length of a knife edged bar, surrounded by diamonds, is a brooch of a recherche character.

The Haytians.

In Haiti the people are divided into three classes—the blacks, the colored and the whites. The blacks are, of course, the most numerous, and they are also the most ignorant. The colored are those who have mixed blood in them and form the intelligent portion of the inhabitants. They are largely in the minority, but they are the only class competent to conduct the government. The whites are those white men who go down there as merchants. Many of these are colored girls, and then, of course, become more thoroughly identified with the best interests of the government. The people generally, particularly the colored portion, have a curious mixture of traits. This combination makes them difficult to govern, for there is a natural jealousy between the blacks and the colored, and so affairs are generally more or less unsettled.—Washington Star.

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U. S. Bonds (market value) 19,500.00

Interest due and accrued 2,480.75

Cash on Hand and in Banks 16,928.85

\$129,409.60

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Interest is credited to depositors on the first day of January and July in each year for the three and six months then ending.

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